

LIT GIRL DETROIT

**Project
Handbook**

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INTRODUCING...

A weeklong summer camp located in Detroit and as an online hub, **LIT GIRL DETROIT is an inclusive, supportive, and fun environment for middle and high-school cis girls, trans girls, and non-binary people to discover, celebrate, and share their creative voices within the local literary community.**

In this handbook, you will find elements of a business plan and timeline, a communications strategy, and creative brainstorming for all aspects of my literary nonprofit, Lit Girl Detroit. From potential venues for fundraisers and camp week to LGD's grant application strategy, this handbook functions both as further explication of my project and as a starter's manual. In conjunction with LGD's [public-facing website](#), this handbook aggregates and organizes resources and materials I will need to make LGD a reality over the next two years. The handbook is organized to explain the nuts and bolts of LGD's financial and nonprofit structure before building out the vision of LGD's programming and partnerships.

With Lit Girl Detroit, I seek to introduce Detroit's literary community to the next generation of female literary voices, and to inspire campers to explore and pursue all the literary opportunities that Detroit has to offer. Home of groundbreaking publisher The Alternative Press and the nation's first African American poet laureate Robert Hayden, Detroit's rich literary history continues to influence the city today.

Detroit has a complex racial history. Detroit's African American population surged as the city became an industrial hotspot during the Great Migration and WWII before experiencing historic, suburban white flight in the 1950s and '60s. This white flight exacerbated subsequent decades of systemic racism, municipal negligence, and mismanagement leading the city to file multiple times for bankruptcy, including the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history with an estimated at \$18 to \$20 billion in debt in 2013. Detroit was particularly hard-hit by the economic recession and housing crisis of 2008 leaving many family homes abandoned and deteriorating, contributing to the public perception of Detroit as a ghost town or city in ruins.

Since 2013, Detroit has experienced a resurgence in economic growth and cultural development due to targeted governmental support and nonprofit initiatives. Because of its affordability compared to other artistic hub cities like New York or Los Angeles, Detroit can support an incredibly vibrant arts community.

LGD plans to take advantage of all Detroit has to offer and become an organization that is truly in and of the city. LGD will host its fundraisers in arts spaces like performance art site The Red Bull House of Art, or partner with the Motor Signal Reading Series, a collaboration between nonprofit Literary Detroit and print shop Signal Return, to promote LGD and recruit interested artists, volunteers, and of course, campers. LGD will also collaborate with Detroit institutions like The Detroit Public Library and Wayne State University as potential venues and resources to find campers, volunteers, and potential guest artists and workshop leaders.

In every collaboration with individual artists and/or organizations, LGD will seek to strengthen the community that supports it. For example, LGD hopes to partner with local print shop Signal Return as a space for fundraisers and readings, to invite a print maker to lead a week-long workshop or single hour long guest artist panel, or to host a camper workshop or event in their space. LGD will support Signal Return in turn by promoting their work and camp participation across communications channels. LGD will also commission posters and other collateral from Signal Return. With mutually beneficial partnerships like these, LGD hopes to find its voice and a home in the arts community.

LGD's core values are the foundation of every LGD decision and have guided my thinking as I have explored what LGD can be-- for me, and for all of Detroit's lit girls.

LIT GIRL DETROIT

CORE VALUES

INCLUSION

Lit Girl Detroit is committed to cultivating an inclusive environment for all campers, volunteers, staff, and supporters. We believe in building a safe space for all people to create and celebrate their creativity regardless of their socio-economic background, religion, race, genders, sexuality, or ethnicity.

COMMUNITY

Lit Girl Detroit brings literary artists and professionals together with the next generation of Detroit's literary scene. We believe in supporting local artists and highlighting the creative people, resources, and inspiration that abound in Detroit communities.

"LITTLE-L LITERARY"

We celebrate the power of "little-l literary" creativity. We define "little-l literary" as any and all creative pursuits that are bookish, wordy, oratory, or literature-adjacent. Our definition of "little-l literary" is dynamic and we welcome new ideas and forms of creative expression.

EMPOWERMENT

We strive to empower middle and high-school girls to express themselves fearlessly, and to give them confidence in their futures as literary artists and professionals. We strive to empower literary artists and professionals in our community. We believe that radical transparency empowers all.

CELEBRATION

We love quiet poetry readings and old libraries. We also love shouting from the rooftops and bookstore dance parties. At Lit Girl Detroit, celebrating literary creativity and sharing the joy of creative expression are critical components of everyone's camp experience.

ORGANIZATION TIMELINE

A broad overview of LGD's projected timeline from establishing a presence in Detroit through the first week of camp.

* May 2021

- LGD establishes HQ when founder Alex Guillén moves to Detroit.
- LGD website and social media go live to the public.
- LGD hosts "Farewell NYC, Hello LGD" online fundraising event with New York and Detroit networks. See "Fundraising" section for more information on this event.
- LGD applies for Poets & Writers Workshop/Reading grant to fund first iterations of LGD's Speaker Series. See the "Fundraising" section for more information on the Speakers Series.

* Summer 2021

- LGD hosts Speakers Series events to get involved in Detroit's literary community.
- LGD makes introductions with potential partners and venues. See "Venues," "Guest Artists," and "Workshops" sections for more information on these community collaborations.
- LGD will begin to vet and contact potential fiscal sponsors. See "Legal Entity Status" section for more information on this process and who LGD will be vetting.

* Fall 2021

- LGD hosts a Fall Fundraiser event featuring artists / professionals who are interested in working with LGD. See "Fundraising" section for more information on this event.
- LGD continues to host Speakers Series events and maintain an active presence in Detroit's literary and arts communities.

ORGANIZATION **TIMELINE**

*** Winter 2021 - Spring 2022**

- LGD continues to host Speakers Series events and maintain an active presence in Detroit's arts scene with an emphasis on recruitment: finding interested communities of potential volunteers, formalizing partnerships with venues, artists, and professionals, finding avenues to reach and market LGD to potential campers.
- LGD volunteer applications are live. Applicants are vetted, screened, and upcoming participation is confirmed.
- LGD secures event and liability insurance for camp week.

*** Early Summer 2022**

- LGD's camper applications are live and processed. Campers confirm their upcoming attendance.
- LGD hosts volunteer orientation and training.
- Final camp schedule with venues, guests, curriculum, volunteers, all confirmed.

*** Mid-August 2022**

- LGD's first camp week and camper showcase! Detroit Public Schools Community District has not released the academic calendar for 2022-2023, but historically the school year begins in the first or second week of September. LGD wants to send its girls into their school year with confidence.
- As such, the first session of LGD Camp Week will take place in mid-August 2022. Additionally, the academic year for WSU begins in the last week of August. LGD's mid-month timing ensures venues at WSU are available, and that potential volunteers in the campus community are free to work with camp.

LEGAL ENTITY STATUS

This section of the LGD Handbook explains LGD's structure as a legal entity: an unincorporated association with the goal to find fiscal sponsorship. This section includes definitions of these legal entities as well as LGD's rationale for choosing this structure. The section ends with actionable next steps that LGD will take to secure these statuses and a list of resources that LGD will consult.



LEGAL ENTITY STATUS

Determining the right kind of legal entity designation and business structure for a nonprofit is a crucial step in turning the idea of an organization or project into a viable reality. The legal structure of an organization determines how an organization can be funded, how it must be organized, and what kind of taxation and reporting work will be required. LGD will start out as an unincorporated association before finding an appropriate fiscal sponsor to fully execute the goals of the project. As an unincorporated association, LGD can begin making a name for itself in the Detroit community and hold speaker-series type events funded through individual giving and/or relevant grants. I plan to remain an unincorporated association as I physically move to Detroit and start establishing key relationships in the community. These initiatives are further explored in the fundraising section of this handbook. Once LGD has vetted and secured a fiscal sponsor, LGD will officially begin planning and executing the first iteration of the week-long summer camp.

Unincorporated Association

An unincorporated association is loosely defined as “a group of people who act together in a joint enterprise and for a common purpose.” An unincorporated association can receive tax-deductible charitable donations without filing Form 1023 for recognition of exemption under the IRS’ 501(c)(3) code if the association’s revenue is under \$5,000/year. However, most unincorporated associations are not eligible for major funding and granting opportunities that require 501(c)(3) status. Members of an unincorporated association are liable for financial and legal obligations undertaken as the association.

Fiscal Sponsorship

A fiscal sponsorship is “a legal arrangement between a non-exempt person or group (project) and an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization.” In this arrangement, the 501(c)(3) sponsor agrees to receive funds on behalf of the supported project and passes those funds to the project as well as taking an agreed upon fee (generally between 7%-10%) from those funds. The benefits of working with a fiscal sponsor include support in place within the sponsor to manage the legal, financial, and reporting needs for the sponsored project including filing fees. Fiscally sponsored projects are also eligible for most government and foundation grants through their 501(c)(3) sponsor.

NEXT STEPS...

UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

- Confirm “Lit Girl Detroit” is available as an entity name in the state of Michigan via the Michigan Secretary of State Corporation search page.
- Draft “articles of association.” These bylaws illustrate the association’s mission, rules for membership and/or participation, and establish any organizational structure of the association. These articles are necessary for applying for the association-level tax exemption from the IRS.
- Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) using the name secured above. The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the IRS. Every organization must have an employer identification number, even if it will not have employees.
- Confirm state registration requirements for establishing an unincorporated association in Michigan.
- Apply for 501(a) exemption status with the IRS as an unincorporated association, or “social club” by submitting Form 1024, the user application fee, and Form 8718.

POTENTIAL FISCAL SPONSORS

- **Artrain:** a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission, “to deliver discovery and, through the power of arts and culture, transform lives, organizations and communities,” aligns with those of LGD. “With its award winning community building program at its core, Artrain partners with artists and/or arts and cultural institutions to produce and deliver art-infused outreach programs of all types – art, culture, history, science, environment and more – to people in villages, towns and cities to expand personal horizons and strengthen local cultural infrastructure. Artrain defines community broadly: geographically or as people connected by common interests.” Artrain is already a fiscal sponsor of several arts programs in Michigan and has an online application that is considered on a rolling basis.
- **Fractured Atlas:** a 501(c)(3) whose mission, “to make the journey from inspiration to living practice more accessible for artists and creatives,” aligns with the needs of LGD. Fractured Atlas is a huge fiscal sponsor for arts and creative projects and organizations in New York as well as across the country. Their application for fiscal sponsorship is an online application.
- **InsideOut:** Literary Arts Detroit: a 501(c)(3) literary nonprofit, InsideOut is Detroit’s longest established literary nonprofit that brings professional writers into Detroit public classrooms to supplement writing and reading curriculums, as well as producing City Wide Poets, an annual poetry festival for teens and other after school literacy building programs. InsideOut Detroit is not currently a fiscal sponsor for any additional projects. But as their mission, “to inspire students to think broadly, create bravely, and share their voices with the wider world,” aligns so well with Lit Girl Detroit’s, I think it would be beneficial to reach out to them and at least inquire about their potential to fiscally sponsor LGD.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Bodman Law

Provides pro bono legal services to some Michigan arts nonprofits.

Council of Michigan Foundations

A nonprofit association of foundations, corporations, and other philanthropists who are interested in investing in the cultural communities of Michigan.

Michigan Community Resources

Free nonprofit consultation appointments and network / directory of local pro-bono nonprofit lawyers.

Michigan Nonprofit Association

A statewide membership organization that provides training, support, and advocacy for nonprofits in Michigan. Also publishes the Michigan Nonprofit Manual which is an incredibly helpful resource.

Nonprofit Enterprise At Work (NEW)

A southeast Michigan nonprofit, NEW offers training, consultation, and support to nonprofits.

Public Counsel

Major nation-wide network of pro bono legal counsel.

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Offers a \$785 “start up” counseling package for consulting with nonprofits who are in their initial development stages. Applicants must attend and pass their Tax Exemption Workshop before applying to be on their caselist.

PROJECTED BUDGET

This annotated budget captures LGD's projected expenses and potential sources of revenue for the first iteration of camp week in August 2022. This budget includes expenses ranging from furniture rental to guest artist payment. Potential sources of revenue range from fundraising initiatives to camper tuition. A link to the editable spreadsheet of this budget is [here](#).



PROJECTED BUDGET

Annotated Projected Budget for Camp Week + Showcase in August 2022.

Expenses	Estimated \$	Notes
Staff salaries and wages	0	N/A as all are volunteers.
Guest Artist Fees	1000	LGD will pay Guest Artists \$250 for a one hour lecture/performance/workshop. There are four Guest Artist presentations on M-R of camp.
Venue rental	6,000	Assuming LGD is using WSU's McGregor Memorial Conference Center & Community Arts Auditorium and assuming those spaces cost \$1000/day.
Equipment	750	Incidental budget for any additional AV or lighting equipment not provided by WSU.
Supplies and materials	1000	This estimate includes materials like frames, hanging hooks, stage decorations, etc
Printing and copying	1000	Tickets, programs, flyers/posters, camper completion certificates
Furniture Rentals	750	Pedestals, chairs, tables, etc for running camp and showcase setup.
Food & Beverage	2,000	LGD hopes to partner with local businesses to provide food and drinks to sell at the final camp showcase. LGD also wants to provide volunteers with snacks, coffee, and water during each camp day. This estimate accounts for both of these assuming LGD.
Marketing and advertising	500	Paid promotion via social media driving camper/volunteer recruitment and promoting the showcase.
Staff and volunteer training	500	Cost of potential physical space for training volunteers and staff during orientation day before camp
Event Insurance	780	Used event insurance estimator to calculate the cost of event insurance for a 6 day event with 150 people (campers, volunteers, staff) in Michigan which totalled \$130/day.
Incidental Fund	320	Money set aside for anything that comes up.
Total	\$14,600	

Revenue	Estimated \$	Notes
Grants	1,350	LGD can garner \$1,350 in grant money during its first year by applying for and receiving the grants below. While LGD will be applying to many more potential sources of funding, for the sake of keeping a conservative budget here is a realistic estimate. See "Grants & Funding" section for more information on these grants. Poets & Writers Readings and Workshop Fund = \$350 And either one MCACA grant or The Awesome Foundation's grant = \$1000
LGD Membership Program	4,500	See "Fundraising" section for more information on the LGD Membership Program. Estimating 5 members at each level of membership: 5 Haiku x \$60/year 5 Limerick x \$120/year 5 Sonnet x \$300/year 5 Epic x \$420/year
Fall Fundraiser	3,000	See "Fundraising" section for more information on LGD's Fall Fundraiser event. Estimated cost: \$2,000 Fundraising goal: \$5,000 Anticipated: \$3,000
Individual Giving	1,000	Assuming over a year 10 people would donate an average of \$100/each
Camper Tuition	3,750	Basing these estimates on GRD's numbers, in the first year of camp we might expect 30 campers. Also emulating GRD, if camper fees were \$0-\$250 on a sliding scale, for this projection I will anticipate an "even" breakdown of tuition: 5 campers x \$0 = \$0 5 campers x \$50 = \$250 5 campers x \$100 = \$500 5 campers x \$150 = \$750 5 campers x \$200 = \$1000 5 campers x \$250 = \$1250
Corporate Contributions	1,000	LGD plans to seek small corporate sponsorships (ads in the camper showcase program, a logo on the website, etc) and estimates these will garner \$500 each. To budget conservatively, LGD estimates receiving two corporate sponsorships.
Total Revenue	\$14,600	

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

One week of LGD's summer camp and showcase has a projected operating budget of \$15,000. LGD hopes to provide \$9,500 of that budget through its own creative fundraising programs and initiatives. These fundraising opportunities do not require LGD to be a specific legal entity and can be planned and executed in the year leading up to camp in August 2022. LGD will use GoFundMe to manage individual and recurring donations from these fundraisers. Donations to LGD will not be tax deductible until LGD has partnered with a fiscal sponsor who has 501(c)(3) status.



FUNDRAISING

FAREWELL NYC, HELLO LGD FUNDRAISER

LGD has strong ties to literary arts communities in New York City and Brooklyn. In Spring 2021, LGD will host a virtual fundraising event calling upon networks in trade and academic book publishing, library science program contacts, NYU and XE alumni networks, and personal relationships. LGD plans to offer attendees a free hour long murder-mystery writing workshop hosted by founder of Exquisite Corpse and LGD supporter Abi Inman in exchange for donations to LGD. This program will be virtual to accommodate the realities of the pandemic and to allow for Detroit and NYC contacts to meet simultaneously. The program will also introduce the mission of LGD and encourage supporters to join LGD's newsletter, follow LGD across socials, and to sign up for the LGD membership program as a monthly donor.

SPEAKER SERIES

LGD will organize independent workshops, readings, and other events utilizing Detroit's extensive arts communities and spaces that will also serve as fundraising, networking, and recruitment opportunities. LGD plans to approach relevant Detroit institutions like The Room Project, Source Booksellers, Detroit Book City, The Detroit Public Library, John King Used Books, the Signal Return print shop, Third Man Records, the Red Bull House of Art Detroit, the East Side Reading Series, etc to host these events and cross-promote the event and LGD's mission. LGD will also reach out to potential individual partners like Yhasmin & Evie of Detroit Zinefest, local poet Katja Rowan, etc to collaborate on these events or host their own. These events will help LGD build a presence and community in the Detroit arts scene to expand its network of potential campers, volunteers, partners, and sponsors.

STREET TEAM

LGD will encourage its supporters to join the LGD Street Team. LGD will provide any interested supporter with a downloadable packet of assets that the supporter can use to promote LGD or even host their own fundraising event on behalf of LGD. This packet will include: files of logos, visuals, and other branded collateral; printable posters and pamphlets; drafted social media posts to promote their own event. LGD would ask for final approval of an event proposal before the supporter executed the event. Once approved, LGD would cross-promote the event through their own networks.

FUNDRAISING

FALL FUNDRAISER

In Fall of 2021 after the “Farewell NYC, Hello LGD” event and several speaker series events, LGD hopes to throw a fundraising party that will become an annual event. Taking place in a literary venue that may have previously hosted a speaker series event or is interested in getting involved with LGD, this party will invite the anticipated guest artists and workshop leaders of the first iteration of camp to perform or lead a workshop. This event will have an explicit fundraising goal of raising: \$3,000. Estimating that an event for 50 people would cost ~\$2000 and that each attendee would donate an average of \$100, this goal should be feasible.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

To support LGD year round, LGD will offer recurring annual or monthly donation opportunities and acknowledgement as part of an LGD Membership Program. Each level of membership denotes an annual or monthly donation per the criteria below. LGD’s budget assumes 5 members at each level of membership within LGD’s first year.

Haiku = \$60/year or \$5/month

Limerick = \$120/year or \$10/month

Sonnet = \$300/year or \$25/month

Epic = \$420/year or \$35/month

CORPORATE SPONSORS

LGD will seek relevant corporate sponsorship with local Detroit businesses whose missions and values align with those of LGD. LGD would offer advertising opportunities on the LGD website, showcase program, across social media, etc. LGD plans to approach businesses like Signal Return, Source Books, Red Bull House of Art, Third Man Records, The Room Project, etc for sponsorship and paid promotion opportunities.

GRANTS & FUNDING

LGD will prioritize the two grants below from its overall grant strategy to fund early Speakers Series events and introduce LGD to Detroit.

* Poets & Writers Readings & Workshops Fund

- Provides writers' fee for literary readings/events up to \$350. Event must be open to the public. LGD will organize independent workshops, readings, and other events utilizing Detroit's extensive arts communities and spaces that will also serve as fundraising, networking, and recruitment opportunities. LGD plans to approach relevant Detroit institutions like The Room Project, Source Booksellers, Detroit Book City, The Detroit Public Library, John King Used Books, the Signal Return print shop, Third Man Records, the Red Bull House of Art Detroit, the East Side Reading Series, etc to host these events and cross-promote the event and LGD's mission.

* The Awesome Foundation - Ann Arbor

- The Ann Arbor Awesome Foundation is the Ann Arbor chapter of the Boston-based micro-philanthropic organization known as the Awesome Foundation. Each fully autonomous chapter supports awesome projects through micro-grants, usually given out monthly. These micro-grants, \$1,000 or the local equivalent, come out of the pockets of the chapter's "trustees" and are given on a no-strings-attached basis to people and groups working on awesome projects. LGD plans to use this \$1000 towards either venue rental for camp week or to finance the Fall Fundraiser.

LIT GIRL DETROIT

WEBSITE

The LGD website contains information potential campers, partners, volunteers, and sponsors might need. From the weekly camp schedule to camper and volunteer applications, litgirldetroit.org is an online hub for all things LGD.


[Home](#)
[Mission & Values](#)
[Camp Schedule](#)
[Workshops](#)
[Volunteer](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Contact](#)
[Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Lit Girl Detroit


August 2022
Detroit, Michigan






Literary Lending Library

This library's not just books! Campers, volunteers, and guest artists are invited to donate any literary objects, tools, toys, and (of course) books for the camp lending library! Campers can check out items to use during creativity time or to take home for the night!



Showcase Prep

Display, print, practice, perform your creative project before Saturday's showcase! Your creativity time counselor will help you show off your hard work.



Showcase

Celebrate your creativity with your camp community! Camper projects & performances for everyone involved in camp.

Camp Schedule

Monday - Thursday

9:30 AM | Check-in
10:00 AM | Morning Warm Up

Lit Girl runs on... Volunteers

Leadership Roles

Camp Counselor

Full-time, Monday - Friday, 9:00am-6:00pm + Saturday, 12:30pm-7:30pm

As a camp counselor at LGD, your role is a lot like a camp counselor at other summer day camps, but with all the added fun of being at LGD! Being an LGD counselor is one of the most involved volunteer opportunities, but also one of the most rewarding. As a counselor, you will mentor and support a creative cohort throughout the week of camp, as well as manage daily camp situations: escorting campers on bathroom breaks, making sure everyone eats lunch, get campers from one activity to the next, maintaining camper energy, and facilitating conflict resolution. You will also partner with a creativity coach to help support your campers' creative projects for the Saturday's showcase.

Workshop Instructor

Part-time, Monday - Friday, 10:30am-12:30pm

Campers choose one workshop to attend each day for the week of camp. Like a micro-survey-course, workshops provide campers with a basic overview and foundational experience in a medium of creative expression. Workshops and workshop instructors promote creativity, collaboration and self-expression by facilitating conversation or interactive activities that fall under our values of inclusion, community.

VENUES

FUNDRAISERS + CAMP + SHOWCASE

LGD NEEDS

LGD has unique spatial needs ranging from fundraising event venues to showcase performance halls. The first iteration of LGD's week-long summer camp will have approximately 30 campers and 100 volunteers and staff. LGD needs a space where those 130 people are able to meet together for the morning warm up and break into smaller groups throughout the day for workshops and creativity time. LGD also needs a compelling space for the camper showcase that allows for both performance-based and exhibition style projects. In the following pages are examples of spaces that LGD could use for camp week and/or camper showcase, venues for the speaker series fundraisers, or other LGD events.

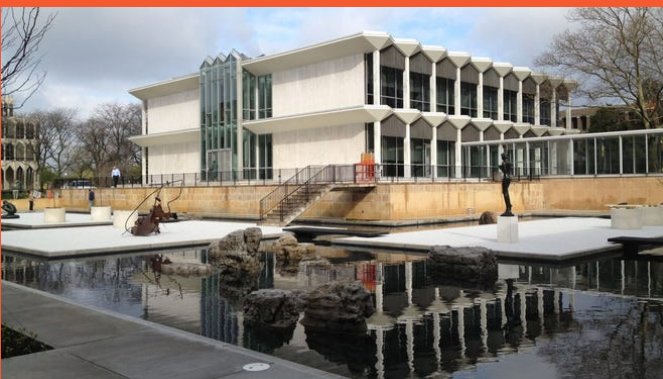


WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Located in the heart of Detroit across the street from the Detroit Institute of Arts and within walking distance from the Detroit Public Library and Detroit Historical Museum, Wayne State University (WSU) is a Detroit institution whose mission aligns with that of LGD to foster community and support diverse students: “We will be a pre-eminent, public, urban research university known for academic and research excellence, success across a diverse student body, and meaningful engagement in its urban community.” WSU’s location could allow workshop leaders to take their campers on walkable field trips to neighboring cultural landmarks. Two of the university’s rentable spaces would be ideal for camp week at LGD.

The McGregor Memorial Conference Center is a two story building with 12 conference rooms that could be repurposed for camp week as workshop and creativity time spaces. The building has tons of light and overlooks a sculpture garden and reflecting pond. Campers would have the opportunity to eat lunch outside and any “messy” workshops (like calligraphy) could potentially meet outside as well.

The Community Arts Center Auditorium is a theater surrounded by a gallery space that would be an ideal venue for the camp’s showcase. A short walk away from the McGregor Memorial Conference Center, this auditorium would allow for both the performance and exhibition aspects of camp’s showcase. The gallery space would also be a venue to host a silent auction, sell camp merchandise, and provide display space for any sponsors or partnerships, allowing the showcase to double as a fundraising opportunity.



OTHER VENUES

RED BULL HOUSE OF ART

The Red Bull House of Art (RBHA) is a contemporary art gallery / event space hybrid located in the arts-heavy Eastern Market neighborhood of Detroit. RBHA hosts experimental and performance art exhibitions, supports artists through residency programs and grants, and also hosts community and private events. RBHA is on LGD's lists of potential spaces for the camper showcase and/or fundraising events like readings or performances.



SIGNAL RETURN

Founded in 2011, Signal Return is “is a Detroit nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and teaching traditional letterpress printing, and building a community center for art, craft, design and collaboration.” Signal Return offers workshops, open studio hours, and hosts community arts programming like their joint reading series with Literary Detroit, Motor Signal. Motor Signal subverts the standard literary reading by asking readers to incorporate some sort of interactive engagement with the audience when they perform. Signal Return’s physical space is gorgeous and could be the host of a fundraising workshop event or a potential showcase venue.



SOURCE BOOKSELLERS

Source Booksellers is an independent bookstore that focuses on African-American nonfiction and cultural books. Janet Webster Jones opened Source Booksellers 2002 and has been a beacon of the Detroit literary scene ever since. The bookshop itself is a small, intimate space and would be ideal for hosting guest artist readings and speaker series fundraisers. LGD will also invite Janet Webster Jones to speak as a guest artist.



GUEST ARTISTS

Every afternoon, campers will assemble for a lecture/reading/performance from a local Detroit artist or creative professional. Below are artists and professions that LGD plans to invite to speak to campers.



GUEST ARTISTS

JANET WEBSTER JONES & JANEIECE HAYES

Janet and Janeiece both founded their own independent bookstores. Source Booksellers and Detroit Book City respectively. Both stores specialize in books and media that celebrate African American culture. LGD would invite Janet and Janeiece to speak to campers about how and why they started their own bookstores.



YHASMIN & EVIE

Yhasmin and Evie have been hosting zine-making workshops around Detroit and were planning the first annual Detroit Zinefest for April 2020. Because of the pandemic, Yhasmin and Evie hosted a virtual Quaranzine Fest instead. LGD would invite Yhasmine & Evie to give campers a history of zine-making and share their experiences and wisdom about planning a festival and adapting to changing circumstances.

GUEST ARTISTS

AUBRI ADKINS & KELLY FORDON

Aubri and Kelly are the cofounders and curators of Detroit's East Side Reading series which features Detroit writers reading their original work. LGD would invite Aubri and Kelly to speak to campers about how and why they started the East Side Reading Series with the goal of inspiring campers to start their own literary series and collectives.



LYNNE AVADENKA

Lynne is the founder of the nonprofit letter press Signal Return. LGD would invite Lynne to give campers a history of printing and print-making, as well as share her experience starting an arts nonprofit. LGD would also invite Lynne and her Signal Return teammates to lead a week-long workshop.



WORKSHOPS

Campers will choose an elective workshop to attend Monday-Thursday during camp week. These workshops are an opportunity for campers to dig deep into a subject of their choice. Below are examples of the types of workshops LGD would love to offer.

* Book-binding & Print-making

Every Lit Girl knows: books are beautiful! Bookbinder and letterpress artist Megan O'Connell and Signal Return's founder Lynne Avadenka teach campers the basics of book-binding and print making. Campers tour the Signal Return studio and gain hands-on experience setting type and making prints. Campers will craft their own book with traditional book-binding techniques.

* Zine-making

Get out your scissors and write your mind! Yhasmin & Evie of Detroit Zinefest lead campers through the histories and cultures of zine-making with a particular emphasis on women zine-makers and the role of zines in feminist history. Campers will each contribute pages to the LGD zine that will be published and distributed at the camp's showcase.

* Libraries 101

So what exactly is the Dewey Decimal system? How do libraries choose their books? Wayne State University's Librarian of Art and Art History, Communication, and Theater Studies Serena Vaquilar takes campers behind the scenes in Wayne State University's library system to learn the basics of librarianship. Campers learn about the history, theory, and ethics of librarianship and have the chance to interact with different types of librarians and libraries.

* Murder Mystery Party Writing

Who can resist a whodunnit party? Join Exquisite Corpse's Abi Inman as she guides you through the twists, turns, and tale-spinning involved in writing and hosting your own murder mystery party. Craft characters, write scripts, plant evidence, unleash a red herring: it's your party and you'll write what you want to!

WORKSHOPS

More workshop ideas that exemplify the "little-l literary" life.

* Literary Herstory

Learn about literary women throughout history who have subverted patriarchal societies to write, read, and create. Campers will fine tune their research skills and consult primary materials in the archives of the Detroit Public Library.

* Slam Poetry

Got something to say? Slam it out loud! Learn about slam poetry and its history in Detroit while building up your repertoire of poems and performance. Campers will write and perform poems for each other in class and craft a collaborative performance for the camp showcase.

* Calligraphy

Words are gorgeous! Learn the basics of calligraphy including history, technique, and supplies to celebrate your own beautiful words. Campers will choose a haiku to write and decorate with calligraphy for their final project.

* Podcast Fiction

Stories aren't just on the page. Explore the unique story-telling potential of podcasting like sound effects, serialization, and voice acting while learning how to record, manage, and publish your own podcast. Campers will collaborate and produce a 2-part serialized podcast story that will be available for download during the camper showcase.

* Book Publishing 101

Authors, agents, editors -- oh my! Learn how a book goes from a manuscript to your indie bookstore with input from women professionals in publishing. Campers will create a book proposal for a new idea or draft a query letter to their future literary agent for an existing project.

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